REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These amendments and remarks are filed in response to the Office Action of April 17, 2006, a response to which is due to be filed by July 17, 2006. In the Applicants' respectful submission, no fees are due in connection with the filing of this response. If the Applicants are mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and subsequent replies to deduct any fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2400 for any additional fees required and, in particular, extension of time fees.

Amendments to the Claims

As set out in the foregoing pages, claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 17, and 18 have been amended and claim 8 has been cancelled. The remaining claims are unamended. Following entry of the amendments, claims 1-7 and 9-18 remain pending in the present application. No excess claim fees are due as a result of these amendments.

The foregoing amendments have been made to render the claims of the present application consistent with the claims of the Applicants' co-pending European patent application directed to the same subject matter. In the Applicants' respectful submission, the foregoing amendments have not been made in response to a statutory requirement.

The amendments to independent claims 1 and 10 specify that the computer program product and method for automatically configuring an access control point relate to the downloading and installation of a new application on a user device, where the new application is configured to access remote network resources during its operation. Accordingly, the access control rules within the access control point are set based upon access control information associated with the new application. The access control rules are set so as to permit communications between the new application and the remote network resources.

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Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2 and 10-11 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hansson (US Publication No. 2004/0127190). Claims 3-9 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious having regard to Hansson in view of Maste (US Publication No. 2004/0088550) in further view of Nykanene (US Publication No. 2002/0173295). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Hansson reference relates to a software platform for a mobile device. It describes an on-device interface that allows new applications to be installed on the device and governs whether the new applications are granted access to device services when operating. An access control manages the permission associated with each non-native application. The permissions may be updated when a new application is installed, but the Hansson reference provides little detail regarding where the permissions update information is to be found. Reference may be made to paragraphs [0063] to [0065] of the Hansson reference.

The Hansson reference does not relate to firewalls; instead, it relates to internal device software abstraction layers and APIs, and the managing of access to on-device services. Hansson does not address the problem of updating firewall rules to enable a newly installed application to communicate with remote systems in order to access remote network resources.

In particular, with reference to claim 1 of the present application, Hansson fails to describe or disclose any steps of downloading a new application for installation on a user device, receiving and reading access control information associated with the application, and setting access control rules based upon access control information in order to permit communications between the new application and remote network resources. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Hansson reference fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations of the independent claims of the present application. Therefore, the Hansson reference cannot be considered

anticipatory.

Moreover, insofar as Hansson is relied upon by the Examiner in support of an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Applicants respectfully submit that Hansson is non-analogous art. Hansson's teachings are aimed at internal software service permissions, where the permissions relate to whether an application will be given access to device resources. Hansson is unrelated to firewalls, which govern communications between a user device and remote resources. Hansson provides no teaching or suggestion regarding access control points that have rules preventing applications from communicating with remote network resources. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the computer software arts would not likely make reference to Hansson when considering the issue of firewall access, since Hansson relates to internal device software abstraction layers and the managing of on-device services.

The Maste reference cited by the Examiner relates to WLAN access and, in particular, a system and method for determining whether to permit a wireless device to access a network. The Maste reference is unrelated to firewalls in the context of network computers. It has no connection with the downloading and installation of a new application that requires access to remote network resources and the updating of access control rules within an access control point in order to facilitate communications between the newly installed application and the remote network resources. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Maste reference is also non-analogous art in the context of a 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection. Moreover, the Maste reference fails to teach or suggest any of the limitations claimed in the independent claims of the present application. For example, Maste fails to teach or suggest the steps of downloading a new application, installing a new application, receiving and reading access control information associated with the new application, or setting access control rules based upon the access control information.

The Nykanene reference is directed to context sensitive web services to enable a mobile device to use context inference techniques to sense a user's environment and, in response, provide useful information to the user that is appropriate to the user's perceived environment. This reference is relied upon by the Examiner on the basis that it suggests that a user can control whether application programs are granted access to the user's private data. This aspect of Nykanene is described in particular at paragraphs [0034] – [0061]. The user updates his or her profile manually in order to grant permission to an application program to access the user's private data.

Nykanene does not relate to firewalls. No suggestion is made in Nykanene that the permissions are updated in connection with installation of a new application on the device or that the permissions govern whether a newly installed application can access remote network resources. Nykanene relates to whether an application program located on the device can access the user's private data. Nykanene fails to teach or suggest any steps of downloading a new application for installation, receiving and reading access control information associated with the application, and setting the access control rules based upon the access control information.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application and all claims depending therefrom are non-obvious in view of Hansson, Maste, and Nykanene, whether taken alone or in combination. None of the three cited references relate to firewalls or updating firewall rules. None of the references describe steps of receiving and reading access control information associated with a newly downloaded application and setting access control rules based upon the access control information in order to permit communications between the new application and remote network resources. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness since the references, in any combination, fail to teach the limitations claimed in the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Should the Examiner have any questions with regard to these submissions, please contact the Applicants' agent, Fraser Rowand, at 416-868-1482.

Respectfully Submitted,

OWEN, Russell, et al.

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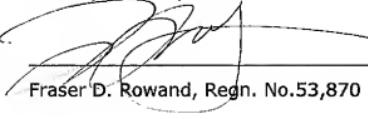
Fraser D. Rowand, Regn. No.53,870

Place: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Date: June 28, 2006
Tele No.: 416-868-1482